

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 KINGST 05652 181601Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15  
ICA-11 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 OMB-01 HA-05 /100 W  
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R 181526Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2366  
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN  
AMEMBASSY NASSAU  
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN  
USINT HAVANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 5652

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, JM  
SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MOVES FOR RECTITUDE

REF: (A) KINGSTON 5536, (B) KINGSTON 3396

1. SUMMARY: STUNG BY CRITICISM, PM MANLEY HAS MOVED TO  
DEFEND THE CORRUPTION ISSUE BY NULLIFYING AND RESCHEDULING  
THE NOMINATIONS FOR AN UPCOMING BY-ELECTION AND BY TAKING  
A STRONG STANCE AGAINST CORRUPTION BY PUBLIC OFFICIALS.  
THE JLP IS MOMENTARILY UPSTAGED, BUT THE GREEN BAY AFFAIR  
HAS A FUSE STILL BURNING. END OF SUMMARY.

2. STUNG BY WIDESPREAD CRITICISM, PM MANLEY HAS MOVED  
OVER THE WEEKEND TO CLEAN UP THE IMAGE OF HIS GOVERNMENT  
AND PARTY BY:

--RESCHEDULING THE WEST ST. ANDREW BY-ELECTION TO AUGUST 3 (WHERE  
FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY MINISTER DUDLEY THOMPSON IS SEEKING SEAT  
FORMERLY HELD BY FORMER FINANCE MINISTER COORE) AND REJECTING LAST  
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WEEK'S NOMINATIONS, WHICH WERE CHARACTERIZED BY PHYSICAL INTIMIDATION  
OF SOME ANTI-GOVERNMENT CANDIDATES AND REJECTION OF OTHERS ON  
TECHNICALITIES (REFTEL A). EVEN THE PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY NEWS COULD  
NOT STOMACH THESE BLATANT TACTICS. JULY 18 HAS BEEN SET AS THE NEW  
NOMINATING DAY, AND MANLEY PROMISES A "PEACEFUL AND DISCIPLINED  
ATMOSPHERE."

--DELIVERING A STRONG ANTI-CORRUPTION SPEECH ON JULY 16 IN WHICH HE LECTURED HIS OWN MINISTERS AND OFFICIALS IN THE DUTIES OF HIGH OFFICE

"CORRUPTION AND SACRIFICE CAN'T GO SIDE BY SIDE, AND, EQUALLY, CORRUPTION HAS NO PLACE IN THE BUILDING OF SOCIALISM."

3. MANLEY'S MOVES PUT THE OPPOSITION JAMAICA LABOR PARTY TEMPORARILY OFF BALANCE AND RATHER UPSTAGED A JLP WEEKEND EXTRAVAGANZA, CONSISTING OF A MAJOR SPEECH BY PARTY LEADER EDWARD SEAGA ON SATURDAY NIGHT AND A MASS RALLY ON SUNDAY, THE FIRST ONE ALLOWED IN SEVERAL MONTHS. SEAGA NOTED THAT THE JLP WOULD NOT APPOINT ANY NEW SENATORS UNTIL A COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF THE MILITARY INTELLIGENCE UNIT WAS APPOINTED (REFERS TO THE "GREEN BAY" AFFAIR; SEE KINGSTON 5333). HE ALSO PROMISED THAT THE BOYCOTT ON JLP PARTICIPATION IN ELECTIONS WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ELECTORAL REFORM IS IMPLEMENTED. THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, IS EXPECTED TO SAY "YES" OR "NO" ON THIS MATTER BY THE END OF JULY.

4. THE JLP RALLY WAS THE FIRST ONE ALLOWED SINCE THE BAN ON PUBLIC MEETINGS INSTITUTED SEVERAL MONTHS AGO (REFTEL B). IT REPORTEDLY DREW A LARGE, ENTHUSIASTIC CROWD AND THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS. THE JULY 16 RALLY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF A RELAXATION OF THE BAN ON PUBLIC MEETINGS DURING THE CURRENT BY-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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PERIOD.

5. COMMENT: THE OPPOSITION CAN TAKE SOME SATISFACTION FROM MANLEY'S MOVES -- HE WAS MAINLY REACTING TO JLP PRESSURE. HOWEVER, HIS REACTION DEMONSTRATED A GOOD POLITICAL TOUCH, MORE ADAPT THAN ANYTHING DONE BY THE JLP OF LATE. IF HE CAN SOMEHOW DEFUSE THE "CORRUPTION" AND "SCANDAL" ISSUES WHILE BLAMING JAMAICA'S MANY WOES ON "IMPERIALISTS", THEN HE SHOULD HAVE A FAIRLY EASY TIME OF IT AT THE PNP ANNUAL CONFERENCE COMMENCING SEPTEMBER 13. MANLEY, HOWEVER, HAS BY NO MEANS DEFUSED THE SENSITIVE GREEN BAY AFFAIR (KINGSTON 5333), NOR FOUND A SOLUTION TO JAMAICA'S ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014